



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BUFFELGRASS REMOVAL PROJECT

Saguaro National Park continues its buffelgrass eradication efforts with a volunteer exotic plant removal project on Saturday, June 16th, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The work will be done at the park's Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East). Buffelgrass is an aggressive, non-native grass that competes with native plants such as saguaros and palo verdes, and also carries wildfires that can harm these Sonoran Desert natives. Fire is rare in the Sonoran desert, and many species here have little or no defense against fire. If buffelgrass continues to spread, it will be a serious threat to biological conservation efforts in the area, and buffelgrass fires may also become a major threat to public safety and property.

Any person wanting to volunteer should meet at the Visitor Center, at 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, at 7:00 am. Volunteers are asked to RSVP to the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153. Volunteers should be prepared for a short hike and to work outdoors. Remember to bring a hat, water, sunscreen, good boots, and long pants.

This event is organized by the National Park Service, in coordination with the Rincon Institute. For information on these organizations, check out their web sites, listed below, along with websites about the buffelgrass problem. For additional information about this project, contact Perry Grissom, Fire Ecologist, at (520) 733-5134, or by E-mail at perry_grissom@nps.gov, or call the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center at (520)733-5153.

www.nps.gov/sagu
www.rinconinstitute.org

<http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/buffelgrass/>
www.buffelgrass.org